

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed March 25, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended claims, canceled claims, and added claims, and have amended the specification. No new matter has been added.

Specification

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification because it did not reflect the current status of four parent applications. Applicants have amended the specification as requested. Accordingly, the objection to the specification should be withdrawn.

Applicants have further amended the specification to indicate that this application is a continuation-in-part of three additional applications that were pending at the time this application was filed. This benefit claim is timely under 35 CFR §1.78 because this application was filed before November 29, 2000. See 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii)(B).

The Claims

In the Office Action, claims 12-62 were allowed, and claims 5-8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, and 9-11 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Each of claims 5 and 6 has been amended to be in independent form and to include the limitations of claim 1 (the only claim from which it depended). Accordingly, each of claims 5 and 6 should now be in allowable condition.

Each of dependent claims 2-4 have been amended to depend from claim 5, and thus should be allowable for at least the same reasons claim 5 is allowable.

Each of dependent claims 7, 8, and 63-65, being dependent on claim 6, should be allowable for at least the same reasons claim 6 is allowable.

Serial No.: 09/643,188
Conf. No.: 8696

- 19 -

Art Unit: 2863

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

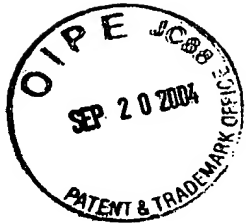
If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
Ohlenbusch et al., Applicant(s)

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Docket No.: P0663.70024US00
Date: September 17, 2004
x09/25/04x



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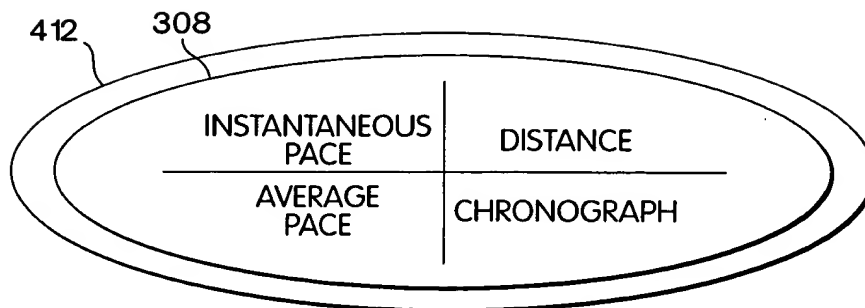
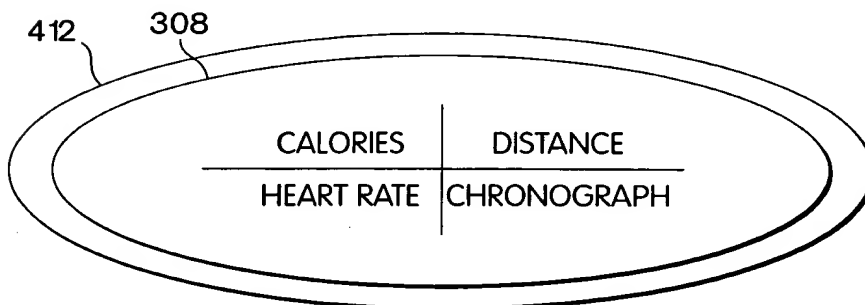


Fig. 32A



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Fig. 32B

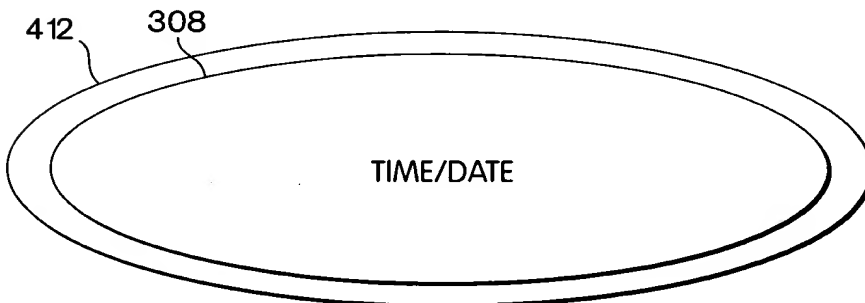


Fig. 32C

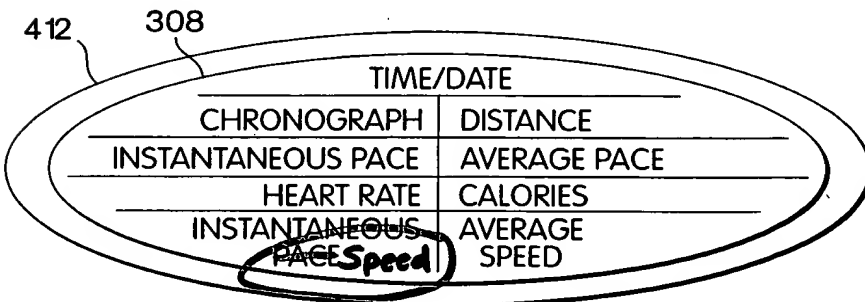


Fig. 32D